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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

February 1, 2005

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BLUE SPRINGS, MO 64014-2733
(816) 228-4242

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JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65109-2429
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219 NORTH ADAMS STREET
LEBANON, MO 65536-3000
(417) 532-7964

908 THOMPSON BLVD.
SEDALIA, MO 65301-4593
(660) 826-2675

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The survivors of the earthquake and tsunami that struck South Asia on December 26, 2004, have lost their homes and possessions and find themselves in dire need of essentials such as food, clean water, medical attention, and shelter. Over the past several decades, U.S. food aid programs run by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have demonstrated their capacity to help people in need, but their fiscal year 2005 funding levels will have to be increased for them to do the job properly.

As part of the supplemental appropriations bill you are planning to submit within the next several weeks to cover the cost of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, we urge you to include a request for food aid programs to help the earthquake and tsunami victims in South Asia as well as to address the food aid shortfall generated by pre-existing emergency assistance needs in Africa and elsewhere in the world. A portion of that money should be used to replenish recent withdrawals from the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.

It is crucial that you take these steps and not attempt to meet emergency needs by cutting existing programs. We believe that previous cuts made to developmental food aid programs in this fiscal year should be restored. It would not be appropriate to help the people in regions affected by emergencies by reducing aid to people in other developing countries. We urge you to consider carefully this situation and to take whatever actions are necessary to ensure our ability to meet all our food aid commitments.

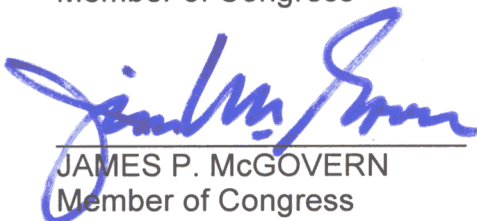
Sincerely,



IKE SKELTON
Member of Congress



JO ANN EMERSON
Member of Congress



JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress



JERRY MORAN
Member of Congress



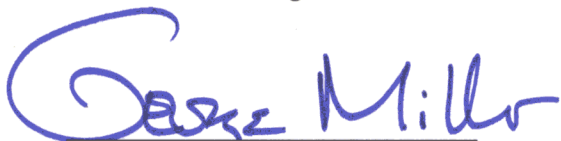
COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress



DALE KILDEE
Member of Congress



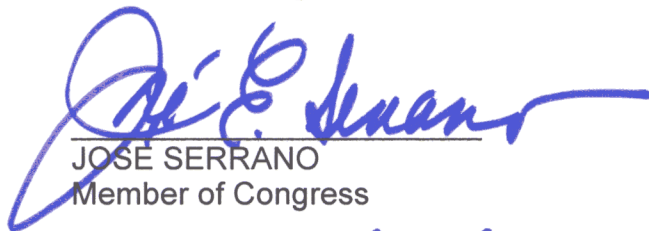
ELIOT ENGEL
Member of Congress



GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress



MICHAEL McNULTY
Member of Congress



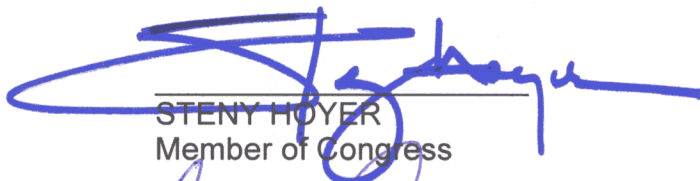
JOSE SERRANO
Member of Congress



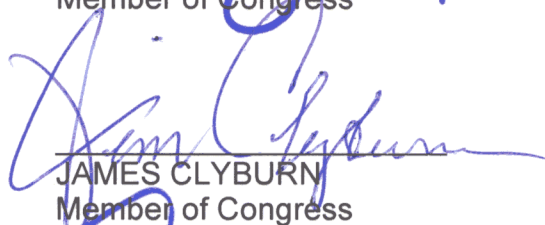
BERNARD SANDERS
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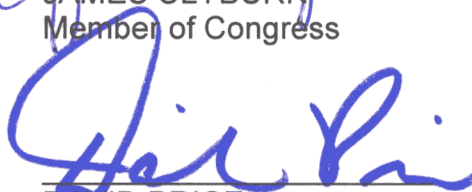
GARY ACKERMAN
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STENY HOYER
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JAMES CLYBURN
Member of Congress



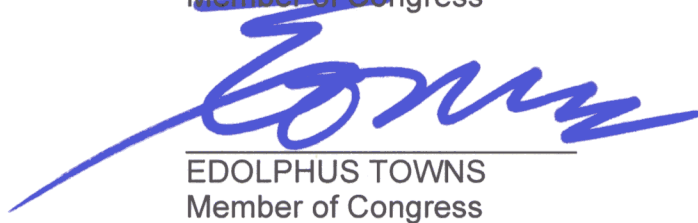
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MARION BERRY
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SHERROD BROWN
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MARTIN OLAV SABO
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Alcee Hastings

ALCEE HASTINGS
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James Oberstar

JAMES OBERSTAR
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Chris Smith

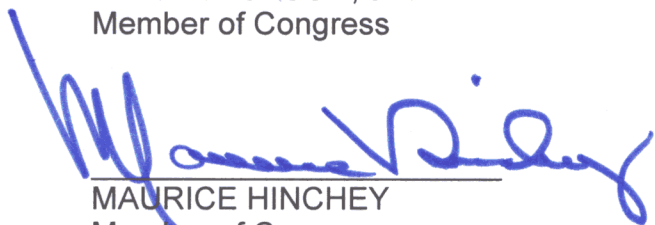
CHRISTOPHER SMITH
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Tim Holden

TIM HOLDEN
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



MAURICE HINCHEY
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BETTY MCCOLLUM
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JOHN OLVER
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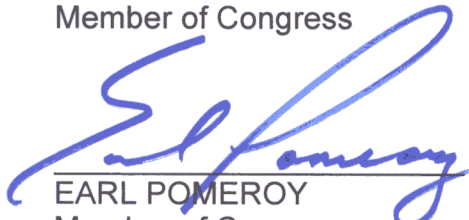
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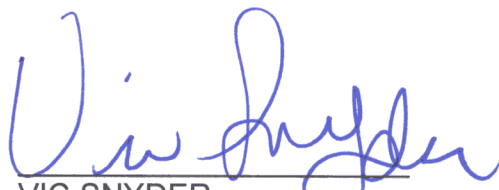

MICHAEL CAPUANO
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JULIA CARSON
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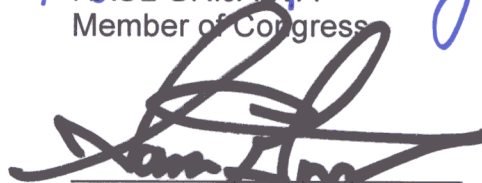

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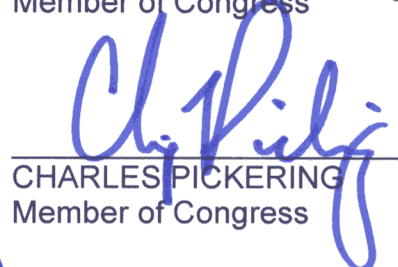

ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress

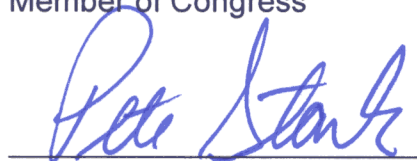

RICK LARSEN
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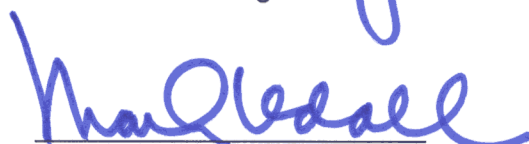

DIANE WATSON
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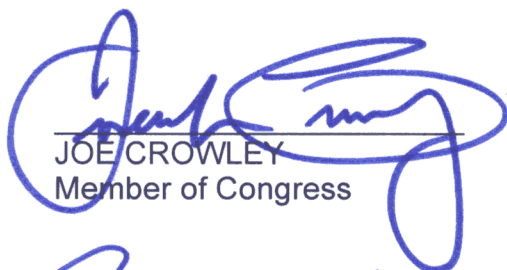

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CHARLES PICKERING
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FORTNEY PETE STARK
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MARK UDALL
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JOE CROWLEY
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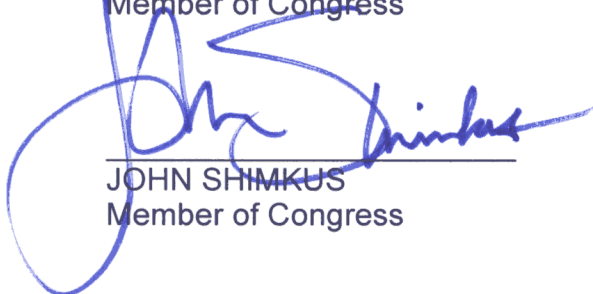

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JOHN SHIMKUS
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JIM MARSHALL
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TOM LANTOS
Member of Congress



RUSS CARNAHAN
Member of Congress



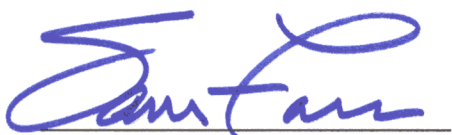
MADELEINE BORDALLO
Member of Congress



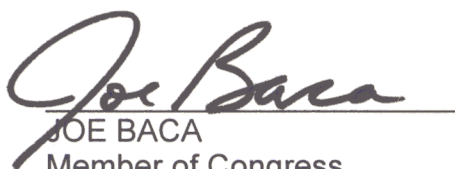
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LINDA SANCHEZ
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SAM FARR
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JOE BACA
Member of Congress



MICHAEL MICHAUD
Member of Congress



LEE TERRY
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